

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) An immunostimulatory oligonucleotide, comprising: 5'-AACGTT-3', 8-40 nucleotides in length, wherein each internucleotide linkage has a phosphate backbone modification, wherein the phosphate backbone modification is a phosphorothioate.

29. (Currently Amended) An immunostimulatory oligonucleotide, comprising: 5'-AACGTT-3', 8-40 nucleotides in length, and having at least one phosphate backbone modification, wherein the oligonucleotide is linked to a nucleic acid delivery complex.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide of claim 29, wherein the oligonucleotide is covalently linked to the nucleic acid delivery complex.

32. (Currently Amended) The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide of claim 29, wherein the nucleic acid delivery complex is a cationic lipid.

33. (Currently Amended) The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide of claim 29, wherein the nucleic acid delivery complex is a sterol.

34-35. (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide of claim 28 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.